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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
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----------261812Z 054163 /46
R 261541Z JAN 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1352
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO CINCLANT
USCINCEUR
USLOSACLANT
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 0433

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO
SUBJECT: DRC MEETING JANUARY 25: AGENDA ITEM IIA-CONDUCT OF
THE 1977 DEFENSE REVIEW

REF: USNATO 0361 (DTG 211710Z JAN 77)

SUMMARY: ON JANUARY 25, THE DRC DISCUSSED CHAIRMAN MUMFORD'S
NOTE ON THE CONDUCT OF THE 1977 DEFENSE REVIEW (DRC/N(77)3-
REFTEL). THE CANADIAN REP (MACNAB) WAS THE ONLY NATIONAL REP
WITH INSTRUCTIONS ON THE NOTE. FOR THE MOST PART, DISCUSSION
CENERED ON PARA 3 OF MUMFORD'S NOTE, WHICH ASKS THAT
DELEGATIONS QUOTE REPORT ON WHAT SPECIAL STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN
IN THEIR CAPITALS TO GIVE SUBSTANCE TO THE SPECIAL CHARACTER
OF THE 1977 REVIEW. END QUOTE. THE DRC ACQUIESCED IN MUMFORD'S
SUGGESTION THAT HE PUT THE SUBJECT ON A DRC AGENDA IN THE NEAR
FUTURE, PROBABLY MID-FEBRUARY, THOUGH SEVERAL REPS EXPRESSED
RESERGATIONS AS TO THE TIMING AND THE UTILITY OF SUCH
REPORTS. ACTION REQUESTED: BY FEBRUARY 14, GUIDANCE
ON QUOTE SPECIAL STEPS END QUOTE THE US IS TAKING TO
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GIVE SUBSTANCE TO THE SPECIAL CHARACTER OF THE 1977
DEFENSE REVIEW (PARA 3-REFTEL). END SUMMARY.

1. OPENING DISCUSSION, CHAIRMAN MUMFORD CALLED
ATTENTION TO THE NOTE HE HAD CIRCULATED ON THE CONDUCT
OF THE 1977 DEFENSE REVIEW (DRC/N(77)3-REFTEL),
REMARKING THT IT CONTAINED A FEW IDEAS FOR INJECTING
A NEW NOTE OF URGENCY INTO THE 1977 REVIEW AND
SOME SUGGESTIONS REGARDING THE SCOPE OF
THE REVIEW.

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2. THE CANADIAN REP (MACNAB) LED OFF DRC COMMENT WITH
A LENGTHY (BY DRC STANDARDS) AND SUBSTANTIVE INTERVENTION
DRAWN FROM INSTRUCTIONS FROM OTTAWA. OTTAWA BELIEVES
THAT THE THRUST OF DRC WORK SHOULD BE TO DECIDE HOW BEST
TO INDUCE NATIONS TO DO MORE TO COMPENSATE SHORTFALLS
THAT EMERGED IN THE COURSE OF THE 1976 REVIEW.
FOR ITS PART, CANADA IS NOW ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN
PRELIMINARY WORK ON A NEW FIGHTER AIRCRAFT AND SHIP
REPLACEMENT PROGRAMS, VIEWING WORK IN THESE AREAS AS OF
HIGHEST PRIORITY. IN ADDITION, OTTAWA CONTINUES TO
STUDY SERIOUSLY ALL OTHER FORCE GOALS AND INTENDS TO DO
WHATEVER IS POSSIBLE TO MEET THEM. WHAT IS NEEDED IS A
FRESH IMPETUS FROM THE DRC, IS, AND CAPITALS, INCLUDING
STEPS TO BE TAKEN BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE FORMAL
DEFENSE PLANNING PROCESS. EXAMPLES OF INITIATIVES
WHICH COULD BE CONSIDERED ARE:

A. STREAMLINING THE NATO DEFENSE PLANNING PROCESS
TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR INCORPORATION INTO NATIONAL
PLANS;

B. CAPITALIZING MORE EFFICIENTLY ON PUBLIC OPINION
THROUGH BETTER USE OF INFORMATION PROGRAMS AND UNCLASSIFIED
INFORMATION;

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C. PROVIDING MORE INFORMATION TO GOVERNMENTS AT
REGULAR INTERVALS AND AT HIGH LEVELS IN ORDER THAT THEY
MAY COME TO APPRECIATE BETTER NATO CONCERNS AND REQUIRE-
MENT FOR ADEQUATE DEFENSE PROGRAMS;

D. CLOSER INVOLVEMENT OF MINISTERS AND PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVES IN ALL STAGES OF THE DEFENSE PLANNING
PROCESS;

E. CLEARER DELINEATION OF HIGHEST PRIORITY GOALS
AND METHODS FOR STANDARDIZATION, RATIONALIZATION AND
INTEROPERABILITY TO ENSURE THE MOST EFFECTIVE USE OF
ALLIANCE RESOURCES.

COMMENT: THE CANADIAN REP DESCRIBED OTTAWA'S RESPONSE
AS QUOTE UNCHARACTERISTIC END QUOTE BOTH AS REGARDS
TIMELINESS AND EPTH OF CONTENT. WE CONCUR IN THIS
DESCRIPTION, AND HOPE IT REFLECTS A NEW SERIOUSNESS OF
INTENT AND PURPOSE AMONG CANADIAN DEFENSE PLANNERS.

END COMMENT.

3. THE UK REP (PETERS) INDICATED HIS SATISFACTION WITH
THE CONTENT OF THE CHAIRMAN'S NOTE AND ASKED MERELY FOR

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EARLY NOTICE OF ANY CHANGES OR REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION IN THE 1977 DPQ. HE REMARKED THAT MINISTER
MULLEY HAD RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDNG THE
SPECIAL NATO INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING TO OPPOSITION LEADERS,
AND, REFERRING TO THE EVANS-NOVAK ARTICLE IN THE
JANUARY 25 HERALD TRIBUNE, COMMENTED THAT THE HUGHES
BRIEFING SEEMED TO HAVE HAD A REMARKABLE EFFECT ON
THE US CONGRESS.

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4. ON A PERSONAL BASIS, THE US REP (BADER) SAID THAT
THE CANADIAN INITIATIVE,WITHOU COMMENTING ON ITS
SUBSTANTIVE MERITS, SEEMED TO SET THE RIGHT TONE.
REFERRING TO PARAGRAPH 3 OF MUMFORD'S NOTE, HE
ASKED WHAT TIMEFRAME MUMFORD HAD IN MIND FOR REPORTS
FROM CAPITALS ON QUOTE SPECIAL STEPS END QUOTE BEING
TAKEN TO GIVE SUBSTANCE TO THE SPECIAL CHARACTER OF
THE 1977 REVIEW. MUMFORD INDICATED THAT A TOUKRDE
TABLE MIGHT BE POSSIBLE AT A DRC MEETING IN A FEW WEEKS
TIME. SEVERAL REPS (US, FRG-GEN SCHUENEMANN,
NE-WYNAENDTS, DE-BELLING) EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS
AS TO THE TIMING AND THE UTILITY OF REPORTS ON
QUOTE SPECIAL STEPS END QUOTE BUT EVENTUALLY ACQUIESCED
IN MUMFORD'S SUGGESTION THAT THE SUBJECT BE PUT ON A
DRC AGENDA IN THE NEAR FUTURE, PROBABLY MID-FEBRUARY.

5. THE BELGIAN REP (GEN TAYMANS) STATED THAT WHILE
HE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED FROM HIS AUTHORITIES ANY
REACTION TO MUMFORD' NOTE, HE HAD IDENTIFIED CERTAIN
DIFFICULTIES. HE NOTED THAT BELGIUM HAD ALREADY
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UNDERTAKEN SOME LONG-RANGE ENGAGEMENTS FOR FUNDS AND
WAS ALREADY FULFILLING ITS PLEDGE TO INCREASE DEFENSE
SPENDING FOUR PERCENT ANNUALLY IN REAL TERMS. TO
EXISTING PLANS, NATO NOW PROPOSED ADDING UNFORESEEN
EXPENDITURES RELATED TO INFRASTRUCTURE AUGMENTATION AND
A NATO AEW PROGRAM. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WOULD
BE DIFFICULT TO MODIFY BELGIUM'S PLANS FUNDAMENTALLY,
HENCE IT MIGHT BE UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT THE 1977
DEFENSE REVIEW TO BE FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT FROM PREVIOUS
REVIEWS. MUMFORD REPLIED THAT NO ONE WAS UNDERESTIMATING
THE DIFFICULTIES OF GIVING A SPECIAL CHARACTER TO THE
1977 DEFENSE REVIEW, BUT ONE SHOULD NOT BE TOO PESSIMISTIC
THIS EARLY IN THE GAME. IN HIS VIEW, NATO WAS ON TRIAL,
AND PUBLIC OPINION AND PARLIAMENTS WOULD BE LOOKING TO
SEE IF NATO WAS CAPABLE OF REACTING TO TIMELY WARNINGS;
AT THE DECEMBER 1976 MEETING, THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES
HAD STRESSED NOT THAT NATO WAS IN A CRISIS STATE
CURRENTLY, BUT RATHER THAT THE TRENDS WERE ALARMING.

6. THE SHAPE REP (GEN SCHWEITZER) ECHOED THE CONCERNS
MUMFORD HAD EXPRESSED IN DRC/N(77)3. TO REINFORCE
MUMFORD'S COMMENT ON THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE THREAT,
HE RECALLED THE STATEMENT IN THE SHAPE 1976 SUITABILITY
AND RISK ASSESSMENT TAHT QUOTE FOR THE PERIOD UNDER
REVIEW, THE STRATEGY IS JEOPARDIZED BECAUSE OF THE
GROWING IMBALANCE BETWEEN THE CONVENTIONAL FORCE OF
NATO AND THOSE OF THE WARSAW PACT...THE CREDIBILITY
OF OUR FORCES AS A DETERRENT WILL FAIL IF THE PRESENT
AND PROJECTED DISPARITY IN FORCES IS ALLOWED TO GO
UNCORRECTED. END QUOTE. HE MUSED THAT ONLY HISTORY
WOULD TELL US WHETHER NATO WAS CURRENTLY IN A CRISIS
SITUATION, AND THAT PERHAPS NATO WAS ALREADY IN WARNING
TIME. HE ADDED THAT CONCERNED VOICES WERE BEGINNING
TO QUESTION WHETHER THE NATO STRATEGY WOULD WORK. THE
STRATEGY ITSELF WAS NOT BEING QUESTIONED, BUT ONLY
ITS FEASIBILITY, GIVEN CURRENT NATO FORCES AND
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PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: BY FEBRUARY 14, GUIDANCE ON
QUOTE SPECIAL STEPS END QUOTE THE US IS TAKING TO GIVE
SUBSTANCE TO THE SPECIAL CHARACTER OF THE 1977 DEFENSE
REVIEW (PARA 3-REFTEL).STRAUSZ-HUPE

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